**Women in the United Arab Emirates**

**WHAT I ALREADY KNOW:**

Discuss as a class what life was like for women in the UAE 100 years ago. What is it like now? What things have stayed the same?

Draw a Venn diagram to show what life was like 100 years ago, and what it is like now.

BEFORE NOW

What do you think life will be like for YOUR daughters and grand-daughters? Is life getting better or worse for women?

**VOCABULARY - your teacher will have ideas to help you learn this vocabulary:**

* Important
* Respect / respected
* Strength / strong / stronger
* Encourage / encourages
* Law
* Rights
* Equal

**READING – read this as a class, in groups, in pairs. Your teacher will help translate it for you:**

*Women have always been* ***important*** *to the UAE.*

*About 100 years ago, when men left for months to work in the pearling and fishing jobs, women had to do everything back home. This was not easy in the desert. Women were* ***respected*** *for their* ***strength*** *and hard work.*

*Now, the UAE is helping make women* ***stronger*** *and more* ***respected****.*

*It is the* ***law*** *to give women the same* ***rights*** *as men. They are seen as* ***equal****.*

*The UAE Women’s Federation* ***encourages*** *women to get educated and get good jobs. HH Sheikha Fatima bent Mubarak leads this. It began in 1975.*

*Now, more women go to university than men. They are getting important jobs.*

**MUST DO:**

1. Draw a picture of a woman in the middle of your page.
2. Label her with words that show she is successful. EG: strong, educated... Try to get six words (your teacher and friends will help you).
3. Tick the words you think describe YOU.

 

**SHOULD DO:**

1. Read the text above again. Answer these questions in your notebook.
   1. Why were women left alone a lot about 100 years ago?
   2. What skills do you think the women needed to have when the men went away to work?
   3. How does the UAE show it respects women?
   4. Why do you think the Women’s Federation is important?

**COULD DO:**

1. Read the text below:

*Women who have good jobs:*

* *Have freedom;*
* *Have their own money;*
* *Do not feel bored;*
* *Get to meet lots of new and exciting people;*
* *Can travel all over the world.*

*But some women do* ***not*** *want to work because:*

* *They are already wealthy and do not feel they need to work;*
* *They enjoy looking after their household and their children;*
* *They still feel it is traditional for the women to stay at home.*

1. What do you think women should do? Work or stay at home? What do you think YOU will do when you leave school? Do you REALLY feel you have a choice? Discuss this with a friend and write down what you feel.
2. When do women in the UAE **not** have freedom and choice? What do you think about this? Write a letter toSheikha Fatima bent Mubarak, to tell her your thoughts and ideas.
3. Read about the important women below. Make notes about who they are.

***H.E. Sheikha Lubna Khalid Sultan al Qasimi***

Sheikha Lubna Khalid Sultan al Qasimi, born a princess of the royal family of Sharjah in the UAE, is a pioneering woman, because she holds the distinction of being the first woman to occupy a ministerial post in the United Arab Emirates. She was appointed Minister for Economy and Planning of the United Arab Emirates in November 2004.

***Ahlam***

Ahlam is a leading female singer from Bahrain. She is very popular throughout the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf region. Ahlam became a UAE citizen in 1996 and is credited to as many as 9 music albums.

Her Excellency, Najla Al Awar, Secretary General of the U.A.E. Cabinet, is one of the most distinguished U.A.E. women leaders with a career marked by outstanding success.

